

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

DRC-01 /174 W

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R 021640Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5602

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, ECRP, TECH, EI

SUBJ: MARATHON NEGOTIATING OFFSHORE GAS PRODUCTION WITH GOI

REF: DUBLIN A-122, AUG 22, 1973

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. MARATHON PETROLEUM IRELAND IS ISSUING PRESS RELEASE MAY 1 THAT MARATHON, WITH APPROVAL IRISH GOVERNMENT, IS NEGOTIATING WITH ELECTRICITY SUPPLY BOARD AND NITRIGIN EIREANN TEORANTA (BOTH STATE-SPONSORED COMPANIES) FOR SALE AND UTILIZATION OF GAS DERIVED FROM FINDS DESCRIBED REPAIR. ANNOUNCEMENT WILL ALSO STATE THAT FINDS INDICATE TOTAL ONE TRILLION CUBIC FEET OF RESERVES. END UNCLASSIFIED

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2. IN INFORMING ECON/COMMOFF THAT RELEASE ABOUT TO BE ISSUED MARATHON RESIDENT MANAGER, RALPH TRIMBLE STATED THAT GOI MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE HAD APPROVED NEGOTIATIONS
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WITH ESB AND NET. HE ANTICIPATES THAT AGREEABLE ARRANGEMENT

WILL BE CONCLUDED AND THAT GAS WILL BE UTILIZED, ALTHOUGH PREPARATIONS, INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT, ETC. WILL PROBABLY TAKE ABOUT THREE YEARS. HE CHARACTERIZED ONE TRILLION TONS RESERVES AS "NOT LARGE."

3. COMMENT: PRESS RELEASE ISSUED IN RESPONSE TO PRESS STORY EARLIER IN WEEK THAT MARATHON FIND NOW DEEMED "SUBSTANTIAL" AND COMPANY INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOI. NET HAS ALREADY ANNOUNCED PLANS TO BUILD \$48M CHEMICAL PLANT TO PRODUCE AMONIA FROM NAPHTHA OR NATURAL GAS AT CORK HARBOUR NEAR SITE OF FIND. (DUBLIN A-161, NOVEMBER 28, 1973). ESB OFFICIAL CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF THAT HOWEVER MARATHON NEGOTIATIONS COME OUT, RESULT WILL NOT AFFECT ON-GOING PLANS FOR CONSTRUCTION NUCLEAR FACILITY IN CO. WEXFORD; FIND IS ONLY "BUBBLE IN THE OCEAN" IN RELATION TO PROJECTED ESB NEEDS. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. MOORE

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Message Attributes

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